

CHAIRSHOTS.

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ONE OF THE GREAT CHAINSHOT ARTISTS OF ALL TIME!

John Hitzewald



J. HIRCHCOCK '92

SHOOTKICK

by Jeff Bowdren

We have a distinct honor this issue. We have co-winners. They are Ric Flair & the good folks at CNN sports. I'll start with the network hacks. A couple of weeks back when the Nancy Kerrigan/Tonya "My ass is perfect to lay a six-pack on..." Harding hysteria was starting to die down (finally), comes the news that the owners of All-Japan Women wants to talk with Harding and make her an offer equal to that which Kerrigan received from the folks at Disney. The guys at CNN sports run a story on the offer, and of course, God forbid they should view the thing with any sort of seriousness-I mean hey! We're talking about wrestling here! So their research department, in a rare display of investigative journalism, digs up a tape of a couple of women in some bar wearing those blowup Sumo costumes wrestling around in a ring of jello or some such nonsense. Excuse me, but doesn't the guy who owns CNN, doesn't he own a wrestling company? Do you think it would have been that difficult for the guys who gave us the "Play of the Day" to give us a 10 second clip of the Japanese women in action? I mean, imagine my surprise when the next night I see the story covered and then see a clip of Akira Hokkuto doing a spot. Do you know where I saw that story covered? On Entertainment Tonight! You know, "tabloid television", that facet of the industry so scorned and looked down upon, especially by media snobs like CNN. Well, this time the tabloid t.v. did their homework and gave us a look at what the Japanese women looked like. The folks at CNN, "serious journalists", showed themselves to be only the buffoons they would have us believe frequent pro wrestling matches. Way to go, you really dropped the ball....

The other go-winner is Ric Flair. No, I'm not going to start up with another article on how Flair is old or anything, I've already admitted my mistake in that regard. No, this Shootkick is directed towards Ric Flair the executive in the offices of WCW. The one who, in his desire to make the Flair/Hogan program a reality rushed a heel turn of Ric Flair the performer. A mistake for a number of reasons. 1st of all, has anyone said that this Hogan deal is a done deal? I see a lot of people, Ric Flair among them being set up to look awful stupid if Hogan backs out. I hope someone remembered to get a little more concrete than Hogan's word. 2nd, does Flair really expect anyone to boo him? They've spent the last year promoting him as the wrestling legend, the proud husband & father and now all of a sudden we should boo him because he's jealous of Okerlund calling Hogan "immortal"? I got news for you. Ric Flair could take a chainsaw to Hogan's children and I'm not sure he'd get booed against Hogan. 3rd, how many times can Flair be turned and still maintain his heat, as a heel or a face? Should we start calling Ric "Harley Flair"? That's the only guy I can remember being turned that much. Ric, who the hell convinced you to turn yourself again? I know that may be the role you enjoy the most but the fact is that as executive in charge of WCW, turning Ric Flair heel was not what was best for the promotion and in that respect it was a poor choice. What better way to sell tickets to the Georgia Dome in December than to have Flair/Hogan: Battle of the Legends, or some such nonsense. With Flair in his traditional role as a heel the promotion stands no chance of selling out the Dome, much less attracting the crossover interest so vital in promoting a match of this type. Until next time.....

ARENA RAMBLINGS

BY
RON
LEMIEUX

Well, I guess you could say I've come full circle. I started out as just a normal run of the mill wrestling fan. I became a newsletter reader in 1986 and started contributing to the sheets. Then I started my own sheet. That was followed by my stint in Chairshots which as of this column officially ends. I'm going back to being a fan again. You'll see my name pop up in other newsletters with results, letters, etc. but my column writing days are over....for now. The main reason is I just have never been satisfied with my columns since I started writing for Barry. When I did my "Ramblings" column in "AR" I use to pride myself in the fact that once in a while I would scoop the big guys. I just don't have the time anymore to talk to sources, etc. to get those scoops. The only stories I get now are the things that happen here in Florida such as info from the Disney tapings or the recent Hogan-HBO story (which is who the Torch got that scoop from although you would never know it). I'm sure if Barry allows it, you may see a letter in here from me from time to time. I want to thank Barry for the space and wish all the best to him and his top notch staff. This ain't ass kissing but plain truth, Chairshots is the only newsletter that when I'm done reading it, I want more. Column to column a great read. Well, I still have one column left so here we go.

That one line in the Observer a few weeks back sent me into a frenzy. Flair-Hogan may happen at the Bash in MIAMI BEACH!!! One thought raced through my mind. Hardcore get together!!! The Orlando contingent of Klon, Aragona, Qualmann, Berkley, and myself will be there in full force guaranteed. Hosted by the likes of Bowdren, Flaherty, Goode and company, it can't miss but be an awesome time. You know Spiegel and the Tampa group will be there as well as the Greensboro connection. The Atlanta Boys I'm sure are a possibility. This could be the biggest one in a while. Hell, we'll be there even if it isn't Hogan-Flair. There are also rumors that ~~an~~ beloved editor will fly back home for this one. By the way, the official date is July 17. BE THERE!

Now for just a few wrestling notes: Brian Pillman is telling people he is done after Spring Stampede. He's looking to work for Tod Gordon and has a few people talking to Baba about All Japan. The only way he'll go to Titan is if Vince calls him. I don't think he'll call Vince.....Steve Austin's contract is up in about a month. A big loss if they don't resign him. I'll hedge a bet that he's Titan bound. Klon thinks Vince should push him as the next "Nature Boy".....How ironic that Missy Hyatt is suing WCW for sexual harassment. Does anyone else look for it more than Miss Hyatt?.....I get Smoky Mountain on a regular basis now and I have to ask. What is all the fuss about Tammy Fytch? Physically she looks great. But believe me Hollywood won't be knocking on her door. Unless they're the producers of "Thunder In Paradise". ...Seeing Jay Strongbow and Wahoo McDaniel on Raw brought a question up that I use to always ask back in Strongbow's heyday. How come Wahoo never worked for Vince, Sr? It was a natural for those two to team up. Strongbow use to have the rep among my friends as the guy who use to get turned on by everyone who turned heel back then, Jimmy Valiant, Spiros Arion, and Peter Maivia..... Other promotions should watch the Snuka-Tommy Dreamer angle from ECW if they want to know how to get a killer heel over. If you can do that with a washed up Superfly, think of the possibilities.....Speaking of Dreamer, he got no relief from the tough Philly crowd. One sign proclaimed, "Wet Dreamer"..... Hey Burt Reynolds, have another drink. Speaking of Burt, I saw that he dumped his love of the time Pam Seals. Seals was a former flame of Barry Windham which bud Jimmy Berkley once mentioned. Windham is rumored to have ballooned to a hefty 320 pounds. Word is it will be Barry meeting Flair at Slamboree... An early congrats to good bud and fellow hardcore Chris Qualmann and his fiancée Barbara Baskin as they tie the knot this Saturday (April 9). This wedding will have a bit of wrestling flavour to it as in attendance will be the Smoking Gunns, Gordon Solie, Blackjack Mulligan, part time WCW ref Jim Berkley, and fellow hardcore Tony Aragona. I'll let you know if the chairs fly.....

And what would my final column be without a comment about my fave guy from California Mike Lano. I recently got a copy of Outside Interference that has Lano as a (gasp) columnist. He blasted me big time which is why I was sent the copy. (I did just subscribe to it. The sheet has come a long way in the last two years which is when I last saw it.) Wanted to let you know Pete that your hero in the column says you told him that you sent me your wrestling collection to watch for you while you were in the hospital. Now I know you didn't tell him that because why would someone send them someth to watch when they don't even know the person. He had the story all wrong and you, Jeff Bowdren, and Greg Goode know the real story and how I was caught up in a misunderstanding between Bowdren and Greg. Just wanted to let you know another instance of your buddy being a lying sack of shit to fulfill his own needs to try to discredit me. Which is what the bottom line is. Lano has been discredited by many in the sheet business. (All legit). So he tries to discredit me with all bullshit. I don't know why any editor gives this guy any space. I was told some readers like his writing. Well, my three year old can tell a good fairy tale. Anyone want him as a writer? So long gang. See you in the sheets, Ron

SMOKY MOUNTAIN HOTSPOTS

BY TIM WHITEHEAD

Live from New York, it's Smoky Mountain Hotspots! I always wanted to write that, and Barry's recent move to the Big Apple finally gave me the chance. Okay, I'll admit that I'm not actually in New York as I write this, but since when is honesty a prerequisite for writing about wrestling?

Actually, I'm writing this by hand (neat handwriting, huh?) on Thursday, March 31st on this side of the International Date Line, which is the night before Bluegrass Brawl in Pikeville, Kentucky. The main event will, of course, be the "Loser leaves SMW" tag title match between the Heavenly Bodies and the Rock & Roll Express, which the Bodies will lose, or will have lost, for those of you reading this after the fact, which is all of you. If you're having difficulty following this, blame Barry, since he's the one who set the mailing deadline prior to the Pikeville card. Anyway, the Bodies will be heading off to the WWF for several months. One rumor going around has the Bodies winning the WWF tag belts pretty quickly, which, for the sake of SMW, I hope is true because if Prichard & Del Ray simply get jobbed under up there it would really be a disgrace.

SMW did very well in the recently released Torch awards. SMW was voted best promotion, the Heavenly Bodies won in the tag team category, and Jim Cornette won in his usual categories. While a certain amount of money is necessary for any endeavor to succeed, there is a point beyond which money in and of itself is meaningless. Once you reach that threshold, no amount of money will make up for a deprivation of talent, intelligence, and will to succeed. Over the last three decades, the amount of money spent on public education in this country has grown exponentially but during those same years the quality of the public schools has continually declined. That's because government, as a general rule, is incompetent compared to the private sector, and no amount of money will make up for it. Likewise, WCW and the WWF spend far more money than SMW or ECW, but who puts on the most entertaining house shows? Who produces the best TV shows week after week? (By the way, can you imagine the federal government running a wrestling promotion? Just the thought of it is enough to make you sick, but stay healthy because the government will soon be running our health care system).

Word has it that Dutch Mantel won't be doing color commentary on SMW TV for the foreseeable future since he's now booking Puerto Rico. I'll keep this short and to the point: It sucks!

Regarding the Bodies vs. Rock & Rolls match at Bluegrass Brawl, I think they should've done a swerve at the last TV tapings and had Lex Luger come out holding both tag belts, talking about how proud he is to be the SMW Tag Team Champions. That would've really thrown all those marks off! I also have a great idea for a new gimmick match. It's a variation on the traditional chain match, only instead of being the first wrestler to touch all four corners in succession, the winner would be the first wrestler to touch all four corners at the same time. That should make for an interesting evening.

Speaking of Manami Toyota (♥), who is totemo utsukushii (look it up in a Japanese dictionary), her matches continue to be awesome.**

SMW drew mixed results at their first card in Marietta, Georgia. They outdrew WCW's last Omni showing with around 1,200 fans but many of those in attendance weren't up to date on the current storylines so there was little heat for some of the matches, and the WWF wrestlers who appeared drew bigger pops than the SMW regulars, which wouldn't have happened in Knoxville, Johnson City, Morristown, or other area towns. The card itself was a solid house show, though the blowout card some were hoping for failed to materialize.

SMW has had some good matches they've been "running around the horn" to all the usual towns on the circuit. The Bodies vs. Rock & Rolls 60 minute marathon matches have all been very good, even though this is a feud that's pretty much run its course. The Tracy Smothers vs. Chris Candido ladder matches, while overshadowed by the WrestleMania spectacular, have been in the **** range most nights with some scary bumps by both guys. The Thrillseekers debuted to good receptions during Golden Week, though the fans here really haven't seen them at their best yet since they wrestled mostly squash matches against the Infernos for their debut run. The Tammy Fytch vs. Dirty White Girl feud hasn't really produced any good wrestling action on their part but it's funny as hell! Also, Darryl Van Horne continues to be hilarious. They need to let him manage someone besides the mummy so he can show us if he's got what it takes at ringside as well as on the mic. Anyway, I guess I'm running out of space so I'll see you next time!

****NOTE:** I realize we weren't actually speaking of Manami Toyota, but I felt like mentioning her and that seemed like a good segue into doing so!

A KNEE TO THE GROIN!

"LETTERS TO THE NEWSLETTER MAILBAG - BEFORE AND AFTER EDITING!"

By Butch Bigelow
Wrestling's Most Pretentious Columnist

Back before I ever had my own column in *Chairshots* I used to write letters to the sheets all the time, mostly out of outrage for the know-it-all crap they were spewing out. Oh sure, my comments were printed occasionally, but most of these pinheaded sheet goons would edit them beyond recognition in order to turn all of my logically conceived criticisms into ass-kissing compliments. In my opinion, this is the most cowardly and hypocritical practice in the newsletters today. It's one thing to edit for space considerations while making every effort to retain the essence of the writer's intent - it's another thing entirely to twist, scramble, delete and paraphrase out of context. What follows are some examples of ACTUAL letters I have written to various newsletters - before and after butchering, er... editing. Are these so-called "editors" free speech advocates or sneaky censorship weasels? You judge for yourself.

Letter 1 BEFORE editing: Dear X, You and your non-talented, big bleeding hearted, self-righteous, tree hugging, liberal writing staff really make me sick! I was appalled by the hypocritical stance you took on poor Vince McMahon and his so-called racist angles! Vince should be commended for making a frank statement on today's society. You and your staff are like a great big pus oozing sore on the ass of society!

Letter 1 AFTER editing: Dear X, You and your... talented... big... hearted... writing staff... should be commended. I applaud... the... stance you took on... Vince McMahon and his... racist angles. You and your staff... are... a great big plus... an asset... to society!

Letter 2 BEFORE editing: Dear X, You sure got your head stuck up your ass real good this time! When are you going to wake up and smell the coffee!

Letter 2 AFTER editing: Dear X, You sure... make... real good... coffee!

Letter 3 BEFORE editing: Dear X, I am so sick and tired of you and your ilk trashing the awfully talented Sid Vicious! He has been nothing short of a gentleman when being persecuted by the troublesome wrestling press!

Letter 3 AFTER editing: Dear X, I am so sick and tired of... the awful... Sid Vicious! He has been nothing... but... trouble!

Letter 4 BEFORE editing: Dear X, The editorial you wrote about steroid abuse really hit a sore spot with me and completely missed the mark. The bigger the steroid abusers - the better the wrestlers. Federal lawmakers beware! Every person has the right to decide to destroy brain cells and internal organs. It's the thing to do!

Letter 4 AFTER editing: Dear X, The editorial you wrote about steroid abuse really... hit the mark... with me. The bigger... steroid abusers... better... beware! Every person has the... brain cells... to... decide to... do the right thing.

Letter 5 BEFORE editing: Dear X, You sure blew it this time, didn't you! You had try to outcoop all your competition with your shoddy "Jerry Lawler with Little Girls" expose, didn't you! To think that you would do such a sleazy, slipshod job of researching! You really screwed it all up, didn't you! His lawyers will rip you a new asshole if he doesn't try to hang you himself down there in Memphis!

Letter 5 AFTER editing: Dear X, You sure blew... out... the... shoddy... slipshod... competition... this time, didn't you! To think that... sleazy... Jerry Lawler... would... screw... and... expose... himself... to... little girls! His... asshole... Memphis... lawyers... will rip you... but hang in there!

Letter 6 BEFORE editing: Dear X, There is something very diabolical about the way you censor reader mail. What a comforting scam it must be for you to obliterate all dissenting opinions! Why is it that you see fit to change around every letter I write to you to make it look like I'm kissing your ass? You deserve a lot of criticism and I always enjoy giving it to you. I am here to fan the flames of truth and snuff out your literary bigotry with righteous indignation!

Letter 6 AFTER editing: Dear X, There is something very... comforting... about kissing your ass... You deserve a lot of... it... and I always enjoy giving it to you. I... am... a... true... fan..., literally... your... biggest... in... the... nation!

On a similar note, Dave Scherer's recent insightful comments regarding the pretentiousness (I prefer the term "preciousness") exhibited in certain sheets were right on target. Thusly, I would like to congratulate him for being hailed as - **the Undisputed World's Greatest Wrestling Journalist** and 1993 winner of the prestigious Bigelow Award for Humility and Good Punctuation. The balloting was hard fought (with most writers voting for themselves) but the people have spoken. Although some editors do take themselves much too seriously, we all know that within the context of today's socially relevent wrestling newsletters, this honor will have an earthshakingly profound effect not only on Mr. Scherer's literary career, but also on the entire free world at large. I know that he would probably deem himself unworthy of this recognition but doggone it, Dave, you deserve it! Newsletters - hey, they aren't just "sheets" anymore!

In closing, for my parole officer's sake, I must mention that I am considering moving away from downtown metropolitan Dwarf, KY in favor of the warm, humid valley comfortably ensconced between the scenic twin peaks of Christy Canyon, South Dakota. If any *Chairshots* readers have ever been there, please tell me what it's like.

THAT'S ALL THE PEOPLE CARE TO KNOW!

FOREIGN AFFAIRS by Dave Scherer

Being a wrestling fan can be as cyclical as the seasons. There are times when everything I see bores me to tears while other times the most basic of matches makes me pop like a mark. There are times when watching a wrestling match on TV or going to a show with the boys will cure whatever is ailin' me. That is probably the thing I love most about being a wrestling fan...First and foremost, congrats to Coach K and the Blue Devils for making their 7th Final 4 in the last 9 years. How often does a class act meet with the success he deserves? Hats off...Wrestlemania 10 reminded me of a classic Roddy Piper quote: "just when they think they got all the answers, I change the questions." And change the questions the boys in Stamford did. I gave up buying PPV's a few years back. I just got sick of not getting my money's worth. Since then I have been getting tapes from a sheet writer, and great friend, who knows all of the Smoky Mountain Hotspots. Through the various computer networks, I saw consensus reports of a fabulous pair of matches and was actually looking forward to seeing them. And I wasn't disappointed. Much has been said about the card, so I won't bore you with any MetaAnalysis. I'll just say that if I had bought the PPV, I would have gotten my money's worth. The same can be said for the Ultimate Fight 2. Of late, I have really been getting into the "real" style. I have also gotten tapes of the first three Pancrase shows and I think that group is great as well. Those who are turned off by Rings might want to try these two promotions. Definitely something different...Here's a tip to those of you who are wrestling fans that also have a life, and I hope that's most of you. If you are a tape trader, a sure way to piss off your wife is to make her watch tapes of Japanese wrestling. What I do is watch my stuff while she is busy doing other things, like making dinner or shopping. Then, I give the appearance of not spending too much time with this sick hobby. I read in another sheet that a guy actually quit a job because his boss would not let him off to go out of town for a PPV. I hope he was just a horsemeat specialist at the Golden Arches otherwise the guy needs a month in a rubber room. Remember folks, this is the toy department of life...Satellite update: While channel surfing I found a new station on satellite A1, transponder 8 called the American Independents Network. They air wrestling weekdays at 10pm, and are showing SMW on Tuesday and USWA on Wednesday...I saw a tape of Yoshiaki Fujiwara wrestling a bear. To quote Daffy Duck, "What an idiot, what a maroon!" Fujiwara stood there while the bear made 4 or 5 rushes at him that knocked him down each time. Hope he was paid well...AAA has finally turned up the workrate. The shows this month were markedly better than the dogs they have been showing so far this year. The LA card looked hot as well. The midget match with Espectrito vs Mascarita Sagrada was super. Sagrada is fabulous (though my favorite mini is Octagoncito, Guru). In the main event, which had Konnan vs Jake "I have not missed a meal, and that's 6 a day, in years" Roberts, Mascarita, who is about 3 feet tall, did a plancha (Superfly Splash) from the top of the cage, which was either 10 or 12 feet high, into the ring on Roberts. Just so you can get a feel for this, if you extrapolate the numbers, it would be like a 6 foot tall man doing a splash from 20 or 24 feet. Crazy...And while in Meh-hee-co, I have finally found a source for EMLL shows. On the last tape I got, they had a snoozer of a title defense between EL Dandy and Javier Llanes, who really sucks. But, the show had a match that featured Negro Casas and Ultimo Dragon, so it was worth watching. Those two are so good, especially against each other...The whole situation with Cactus Jack makes me sick. I don't even want to see his matches anymore. The thing that's great about wrestling is that people don't really get hurt. Unless they are lunatics like Mr. Foley...Got the Torch Yearbook and I said that if I can't say something nice, I won't say anything at all. In Japan last week...I really enjoyed Jushin Liger's Title vs Title match with Shinya Hashimoto. I also liked seeing Misawa get put over Giant Baba in the tag match that aired on 3/6. The fans were shocked, and dismayed by this, as Baba is a legend. They appreciate tradition in Japan much moreso than we do here. It's a shame that Misawa is hurt and won't be able to wrestle in the Carnival tourney. They are generally some of the year's best matches...Weekly Puroresu Magazine reported last week that the W*ING promotion has finally disbanded. Word is that Victor Quinones will start a new group in May with all of the W*ING guys except Yukihiro Kanemura, who you will remember is the guy that Kevin Sullivan sliced to ribbons at a SMW TV taping last year and was powerbombed into fire, suffering major burns, in October...New Japan only drew 3500 at the 3/28 Tokyo Bay NK Hall show. That's not a good sign Japanese Graps fans...You know the climate in the 1994 wrestling business is in a strange way when Vince McMahon shows up on both Smoky Mountain and the USWA's TV shows in the same week doing interviews. On the SMW show, he said how the WWF would welcome either team that lost the 4/1 tag match between the Rock and Roll Express and the Heavenly Bodies from the Bluegrass Brawl 2, which SMW has done a fab job in promoting. On the USWA show, McMahon did his weekly heel interview. Also on last week's SMW show, "promoter" Eddie Marlin also said that he would gladly welcome the losing team into the USWA. It's nice to see that some companies are realizing the good things that cross promoting did in Japan and are giving it a try here...Speaking of the USWA, I really enjoyed the TV shows leading up to the Memphis Memories card 3/7 at the Mid South Coliseum. I am not the biggest nostalgia buff in the world, but it was cool to see a promotion pay tribute to those who drew money for them over the years. It was also great to hear Lance Russell on the stick again. And as goofy as Jimmy Hart's "Monday Night Memories" song was that they played on the show, I even liked that...Like my good pal Jeff Lynch, I am really happy to see the Aussie Football season start up again. This week's matchup had Essendon beat the West Coast Bombers 82-79 in a super game. You may ask "What does this have to do with Graps?" If you can get it off of SportsChannel or the Prime Network, give it a watch and you'll see...Concerning the last CS: Pete, I don't doubt Mike Lano's intentions. I think he is a well meaning guy, but by praising Mike's practice of "giving something back to the business" as a way of taking a shot at Meltzer is weak. It is admirable that Lano puts up Lucha flyers in Hispanic neighborhoods and runs fan conventions, but it is unfair to expect everyone to have that kind of devotion. I think it is fair to say that Meltzer makes a nice living from the WON, and as far as I am concerned, he can do with it what he wants. I don't give something back to all the great people who drink Coca Cola...The Puerto Rican WWC promotion has a new booker and it is an old friend, Dutch Mantel. I have had a lot of conversations with Dutch over the years and I believe him to be a great guy, really. He was extremely vocal about what lowlifes all involved in the fleabag Carlos Colon owned promotion were in the aftermath of the killing of Bruiser Brody in 1988. His signing on with the WWC as booker, like Jim Cornette and Jerry Lawler going to the WWF, is just further proof that wrestlers are always working...Until next time...

Announcing the Hardcore Grappling Alliance (HGA)

Jeffrey Cohen

Greg Maddux or John Wetteland? Mike Piazza or Darren Daulton? These are the choices which have been running through my fevered head this past week. Forget Randy or Terry Hogan... Who gives a finger about Cactus' ear? I had bigger fish to fry... I was getting ready to draft my rotisserie baseball team.

Every year, a roomful of us gather and plot and plan and draft a roster of major leaguers. I have won once, and come in second once. The other six years? I finished in the cold, with my hat in hand and my money in someone else's pocket. Not this year. I studied up on my stats.

Thinking about *WrestleMania* and *Spring Stampede* merely complicated the issue. But I did put some thought into what might transpire. And a vision hit me. A Hardcore Grappling Alliance, comprised of the best of the wrestling world. Would it actually exist? Only in my pitched imagination. I could mentally assemble the most elite talent in the grappling universe to create the HGA (no relation to HGH). The format? Similar to rotisserie baseball... I'd put together an all-star lineup, figuring on who other federations would take if they, too, were starting up at the same time.

First and foremost, I'd need a credible inaugural HGA Champion. For my first pick – Sting. Wait a sec, hardcores! He can brawl, he can do the tech stuff, he has the charisma. So what if his interviews are subpar? We want to sell tickets at the Omni.

My Americas champion (#2 guy who defends mostly in the states, whereas the World champ would get to tour around internationally) – Shane Douglas as a heel. He has come a long way since his tag teams days. Can do a realistic heel gimmick and a Sting-Douglas "Battle of the Blondes" feud would be a great PPV draw [Pencil that one in for '95, Bischoff!]

Now I need three top contenders, heel and face, to battle these HGA superstars. I'd take Vader (initially as a face so he could battle Douglas), Brian Pillman, and 2 Cold Scorpio for the babyface side. For the heels, there's Lex Luger, Shawn Michaels, and Razor Ramon.

For the top of the cards so far, the HGA features Sting battling Lex Luger while Shane Douglas faces Vader. Shawn could fight Pillman or Scorpio, while Ramon was being put over for his potential title shot with Sting. Inevitably, Vader would turn down the line to go after the World title, possibly after beating Shane for the America's strap. You like that a whole lot better than Bret vs. Yokozuna and Flair vs. Sid Vicious, *hmm?*

Now I need some midcard talent, to put over the top challengers and fill the cards with interesting matches. I'd go for some foreign talent here, since they'd make occasional combatants in main events, but wouldn't be in long enough for realistic title contention. Let's go with Atsushi Onita. He could brawl with Razor for a couple of months at the arenas. And some luchadores, like Rey Misterioso, Jr. could have outstanding matches with Pillman or Scorpio. Put Chris Benoit in this category, too.

I know... how dare I call these guys midcard talent? But it's a rotisserie. In a rotisserie, the best guys on every team in the sport are thrown together. There are no distinctions, except the ones you wish to draw as an owner. As the titan here, I get to call those boundaries. Besides, I did say they *would* get some title shots. Maybe not at the World championship, but definitely the Americas title, or the HGA Tag Team championship.

This is where I would stick the "legends" of the business at the start. I would tag team Ric Flair and Rick Steamboat as the first champions, battling with Terry and Dory Funk, Jr. All four men would work their asses off and have enough mutual respect that the jobs would be divided equally. After that feud got old, I would bring in Sabu and give him a push with Cactus Jack against the Funks, while Flair and Steamboat got their World and Americas title shots. Just think of the numerous ways Jack and Sabu could physically destroy themselves against the Funk Brothers. I hurt thinking about it.

Once again, I'd keep the straps on the Funks (as a couple of Crazy Old Men) while Sabu and Jack move up for their title shots as well. Now we put Pillman and Scorpio in for their tag matches. Finally, the belts change hands as the athletes defeat the brawlers. With the belts on Scorpio and Pillman, Dory does the job in a "Loser Must Retire" bout. Dory goes into the Commissioner's chair, while Terry continues for his last solo feud.

The HGA features Sting battling Lex Luger while Shane Douglas faces Vader...You like that a whole lot better than Bret vs. Yokozuna and Flair vs. Sid Vicious, hmm?

Scorpio and Pillman now battle Steve Austin and Rick Rude, the "Rude Beauties." [Pencil that one in for '95, Bischoff!] A series of tremendous encounters ensue, leading to the belts changing hands. Once again, Cactus and Sabu team up to challenge the champs, this time as faces!

All this time, Sting has held the HGA World Championship. A valiant titleholder, he has defended on PPVs against such menaces as Lex Luger (pinfall), Shawn Michaels (pinfall), Shane Douglas (double DQ), Shane again in a cage (exits cage first), and Razor Ramon (pinfall). Now he faces the menace of Vader and loses for the first time. Fortified over a win on the next show against Sabu (while Vader beats Terry Funk in a wild gimmick brawl in the main event), Sting comes back for a year-end rematch. In a grueling 34-minute contest, Vader blows out his knee doing the moonsault. Sting becomes a two-time HGA World Champion.

Looking over this scenario, it's clear that WCW has most of the "working" talent, while the WWF has some of the better personalities. Notice that Luger comes in at the top and gets buried right away as a heel. I would eventually turn him, team him with Ron Simmons, and put him in a number two face team position, battling the next top contenders for the tag straps (where Simmons would take the fall). Or if the straps were on a heel team of Rude and Austin, perhaps they could get the belts for a short-run program. In any case, Luger is not strong enough on his own for a solo championship for any great length of time, as his WCW World title stint proved.

Where is Bret Hart? He could come in at some point, as a heel, and challenge Sting. The Steiner Brothers? They, too, could come in. I have seen all three work better – and get over – in short-term programs.

So, do I have a great league or what? Ironically, WCW could probably put most of this together if they wanted to... if Michaels is really a free agent and Douglas and Sabu can be coaxed to come in. Gee, maybe the HGA is closer to reality than I thought... *Naah.*

BUMPS & GRINDS

by Mike Terry

As I mentioned in the last column, I was in New York on Wrestlemania Sunday, but had to catch a return flight home without being able to see the card. Had I known what a high-quality show it would be, I sure would have somehow changed plans. Great effort from Vince and his lieutenants. I wonder who's calling the shots as far as booking. Is it a collaborative effort? I suspect we're seeing and will continue to see Mr. Jarrett's touch. In fact, have you noticed all the Memphis-like confrontations that are taking place on camera? And more bits with the announcers in the arena?

Sure would have liked to stay in NYC to do that nasty, sleazy strip joint with Barry. (Not!!) In case you wondered about the remark Barry made in the last issue about having my latex body suit ready, that's what I told him it would take to get me in one of those places. Guess that disqualifies me from being a true hardcore. What Barry didn't tell was about the group of us madcaps who "did the town" on the night before Wrestlemania. Can you believe we were locked out--right in front of our eyes--from the cafe/bar at the hotel where the rasslers were romping? For some reason, security just didn't want 9 innocent, fun-loving people crashing the party. Ah that New York hospitality.

The biggest celebrity we did meet that night was Mason Reese. And lucky Evan Ginzburg got his autograph.

So I didn't get to meet any of the guys that night, but hey--I saw Jim Neidhart at LaGuardia Airport as I was leaving. I noticed that Jim has some of the symptoms of a mysterious ailment known as Ironsheikusguttus.

You should probably start to watch or tape the All-American show on Sundays. The best reason of all is a new feature--supposedly exclusive to All-American--called "Roddy Piper's 'The Bottom Line.'" The bit was shot outside of a penthouse overlooking the New York nighttime skyline. Roddy basically took some shots like these: on Luna Vachon: "I even dig the unsightly stubble around her ears." On Jim Cornette & Jimmy Del Ray: "If you guys are the gigolos, hows come I got 6 kids?" Yokozuna: "Aren't you too fat to wear a G-string?" And: "I don't need to knock the WWF like a couple people are." Piper said he's shooting the series "Robocop" and that he'd be on weekly.

So WCW's bringing Muta in as a babyface? About time. Hardcores have been pushing for that for years.....let's rename Terra-Rizing to Terra-Bull.....Brutus Beefcake has to be the Tom Arnold of wrestling. I can't believe how he weasels in on everything Hogan does. Doesn't this loser have any pride?.....actually that comparison was really a cheap shot, wasn't it? I hope Tom Arnold forgives me.

It's always fun to read the match results to pick up on the outlandish names some of the guys are using. From a recent Torch: New England Pro Wrestling features Izzy Straight. But they can't top Maryland Championship Wrestling with: The Mad Mime, Chicken Neck, and Pat Patterson, Jr. Wonder what his gimmick is. I know--master of the go-behind takedown. Another cheap shot but somebody had to take it.

From the press: TV Guide's review of "Thunder in Paradise" gave the show a score of 1 out of 10 and says Hulk "acts with the subtlety of a rocket launcher and just one facial expression--the one you get after swallowing Kaopectate." But that's why we love him, isn't it? People Magazine's 4/4 issue estimates Burt Reynolds' take from his Wrestlemania appearance at \$200,000. Sorry, I'm not buying it. If you've seen Burt lately--not only at Wrestlemania, but also his other public, on-camera appearances--you'll agree with me that the guy has a substance abuse problem. I predict he'll be paying Betty Ford a visit real soon.

And I've got to visit the mailbox, so I'll catch you next time.

Sucker Punch

BY BARRY ROSE



Whew! What a rough and tumble couple of weeks it's been. Between my new found employment and the always treacherous New York lifestyle, I'm as tired as Wesley Snipes after a motorcycle joyride on a Florida interstate. Let me also apologize for the six day delay in getting this issue in your sweaty little palms. As I've discovered, the New York Postal System is seemingly even more brutal than my good pals who screwed up regularly in Hallandale. **HEY!** This **SUCKER PUNCH** is for you! OK, enough of this personal BS-on to this psychodrama we know and love, rasslin'! Is this Cactus Jack a friggin' loon, or what? Let's say, for argument's sake, that ol' Mick Foley really didn't want to lose an appendage. Most **SANE** people would be devastated, or at the very least, upset, at losing an ear. But not Cacti. His comment's on Mike Tenay's "Wrestling Insiders" radio show prove that his thinking is way out of whack. Such enlightening statements like "...I think if a thousand people lost their right ears, probably nine hundred and ninety nine would be in a real bad depression about it and then there'd be that one guy who said, "Man, this is great. We can make it work for us." And that was me." **HUH!!** Did this nut just say this is a plus to his career? This incident, coupled with last year's hospital stay after another match with Vader, spells **DEATH WISH**. Cactus, I sincerely hope that everytime you leave your family to make another tour, that you tell them how much you love them and give them a big hug. Unfortunately, at the rate your going, you won't return to Collette and the kids one day. Moving on, I had my first opportunity in over a month to catch the syndicated shows this weekend. The new opening to **WWF Superstars** is terrific, but the product still seems a wee bit stale to me. A Jarrett VS. Plugg program? Oooh, I'm damp just thinking about it. The Luger push still seems in full effect, though. Does anybody throw weaker punches or deliver a worse looking elbow? One major plus is Jerry Lawler on color. Easily the best in the biz (The Brain's a close second) and McMahon is fully aware of that fact. Also saw the Disney taped **WCW Worldwide**. The Sting-Pillman VS. Orndorff-Roma match was decent, and the angle following with Rude attacking Sting, was well done. I liked the Hogan interview from Disney's Grand Floridian Hotel. This was the one where Hulk talked about his kid and Ric Flair. Came across as very effective, but you have to wonder if Hogan doesn't sign with Turner, will the boys at TBS have to lick the egg off of their faces? And speaking of Hogan, what a royal boner this "Thunder In Paradise" is. Hulkster, looking ready to start collecting Social Security checks at any moment, acts with all of the finesse of that Herb guy from those Burger King commercials from a few years back. I witnessed the episode featuring Sting (billed as Steve Borden) as an evil Navy SEAL from Hulk's past (Vietnam, actually-kind of funny. He must've been about nine during the war) who has returned for revenge and to claim a computer disc with valuable data on it. He and Hogan have two battles (count 'em-two) where they battle with bottles, tables, chairs, and even tree branches. But, as the politically correct doctrine of the nineties would dictate-no blood! Brutus Beefcake, he of no talent whatsoever, utters the best line of the night, "Oh no, he's got a sleeper hold on him!" What an accomplished thespian. Of course, I'm eagerly anticipating the next episode. **MISC BYTES:** Anyone else see Mike Boyette's name pop up in the Observer a couple of weeks ago? Mr. 89-0 lives! Imagine what Cornette and company could do with him in **SMW**. Speaking of items in the Observer, saw where Bulldog "See, I really am a fucking scumbag" Brower was doing promos for the Ku Klux Klan in Philly. Way to go, Dick (his real name-not a slur)!! Old time fans will recall that Don (Kalt) Fargo was arrested in Mobile, Alabama around 1979 and charged with possession of marijuana, possession of illegal semi-automatic weapons, and in the initial search of his house also produced **KKK Paraphernalia** including those classy looking outfits. Don't know if he served any time or not. Finally got a look at the most recent Torch yearbook. Bruce Mitchell once again steals the show with his quiz that actually had me laughing out loud (and in turn, getting strange reactions from my fellow subway riders). Madden's column bit the big one and Wade showed that he's seriously lacking in the testicles department in listing the Wise, VA riot as number 46 in his listing of the fifty most important stories of the year. Listing Doink's gimmick at number 37 was an extremely hypocritical move, considering all the space he gave the riot. I thought the DiBiase interview was good. Well, that just about wraps it up for this issue. Congrats to Chris Qualmann on his recent marriage and also to columnist Jeff Cohen on his impending end of bachelorhood. Also, thanks to Jeff for all of the help he has given this way to make my settling in NYC more comfortable. And last, but certainly not least, we bid goodbye to Ron "Maybe I'll make a couple more kids" Lemieux with this issue. Though Ron officially joined us in issue six, he was instrumental in any success we may have had from the beginning. The old **CHAIRSHOTS** door is a revolving one, and if the Ronster wishes to return at anytime, we'll be here waiting. We'll miss you, pal. Geez, my hanky's getting all wet. See ya on May 1. I'll be baaaack!

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HARDCORE

BY JOHN HITCHCOCK '94

I WENT TO A SMALL
INDEPENDENT CAMO
ABOUT 2 WEEKS AGO



ON TOP WAS WATTOO
VENUES JIMMY GARVIN.



I WENT TO HELP A
FRIEND WHO WAS GRAPPLING
GET HEAT. ANYWAY,



SECOND FROM THE TOP
WAS DAVID ISLEY VS
RICKY NELSON.



YEAH, THE SINGERS
BEEN DEAD FOR AWHILE
THIS IS THE JOBBER.



SO AS USUAL I START
LIGHTING-UP NELSON
WITH BULLSHIT LIKE
WHERE IS OZZIE AND
HARRIET? ETC.



NELSON TURNS AROUND
AND SAYS - (QUOTE)-
SHUT-UP AND SIT
DOWN YOU OLD. FAT
MAN!



MAN, THAT HURT, I
USE TO BE A YOUNG
DUMB PUNK. MY
HOW TIME FLYS.



WELL, AFTER THAT
MATCH COMES WATTOO
WHO LOOKS LIKE SOME-
BODY'S GRANDFATHER.



AND NO GARVIN. RICKY
NELSON JUMPS IN THE
RING TO TAKE HIS
PLACE.



SHIT, HE COULDN'T
BEAT ISLEY, WHY
DOES HE WANT SOME
OF OL WATTOO?



AFTER 3-4 MINUTES
OF SELLING FOR WATTOO
THE RUSSIAN ASSAULT
AND A BUNCH OF
OTHERS PILE OUT.



IT'S SUPPOSE TO BE A
PULL APART WITH THE
RUSSIAN & WATTOO BUT
THE OTHER GUYS GO NUTS
AND BRAWL ALL OVER.



AFTER A CONFUSING FIGHT
AND THE FOLKS GO PILING
OUT, HERE COMES GARVIN
4 HOURS LATE.



A BLOODY WATTOO WALKS TO
THE RING FOR A 5 MINUTE
DOUBLE COUNT OUT!
GOD, I HATE GARVIN!



HE IS THE LAZIEST
SHIT IN THE BIZ.
AND AS I WAS LEAVING
A COP WAS WAITING FOR
JIMMY JAM. HE
STOLE HIS RENTAL
CAR.



JOHN HITCHCOCK - #3

GARVIN, SCREWED ME IN WINSTON SALEM YEARS AGO, SECOND FROM THE TOP VS THE ~~THE~~ WORKLORD -
THE MATCH LASTED 12 SECONDS! RAN TO THE TURNBICKLE AND A CHADCE. WHAT A BUM!